

NSC BRIEFING

ALGERIAN ELECTION

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- I. The failure of pro-nationalist Moslem and liberal European candidates to file candidacies for 28-30 November election of 67 Algerian deputies (21 European, 46 Moslem) to the French National Assembly is a serious setback for De Gaulle.
  - A. De Gaulle had declared an intent to negotiate the future status of Algeria with elected deputies, and had encouraged all factions, including those favoring independence, to seek election.
- II. Most candidates are right-wing European members of now defunct Committees of Public Safety, and Moslem collaborators.
  - A. Balloting is to be by lists of candidates (each with 1 or 2 Europeans and 1 to 4 Moslems depending on ethnic distribution).
  - B. Although a total of 52 lists were filed in the 18 electoral districts, several districts have single lists, and <sup>hence</sup> ~~have~~ no contest.
  - C. Former Algiers Mayor Chevallier and other liberals, doubtful the election would be honest, refused to file.
  - D. A French official in Algiers confirms that generals serving as prefects discouraged some candidates, encouraged others.
- III. There is widespread expectation that the army--which has custody of the 3,500,000 Moslem registration cards--will falsify returns by casting ballots of absentee Moslems.
- IV. The Algerian rebels have repudiated the election results in advance, and have ordered the rebellion continued.

A. But a spokesman for the rebel government has reiterated willingness to negotiate a political settlement.

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V. De Gaulle, faced with "pro-integrationist" Algerian deputies, may modify his plans for negotiating the future of Algeria with these elected representatives and try other mechanisms for a reasonable settlement.